

serving fewer children than it did in 2002. Despite an increase in the percentage of children under six with only working parents, Federal funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant has been effectively frozen since 2001.

These cuts affect Chicago and Illinois in very real, negative ways. In Chicago, just under 41,000 families with children under 5 live under the poverty line, yet only 17,000 of these children are served by Chicago Head Start. In Illinois, CCDBG served an average of 82,200 children in 2006, which is 20,000 fewer than it did just five years ago.

As policymakers, we should invest in families and children by bringing funding for Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) at least up to the inflation-adjusted levels at which they were funded in 2002. History will judge us harshly if we withhold key resources that we know can provide essential supports for our youngest citizens. During this Week of the Child, I urge my colleagues to reverse this trend and invest in children.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for two essential programs for our children and families—Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) and Head Start.

We know that early investments in our children pay off in the long run. Early childhood education programs increase school readiness and achievement, and improve cognitive and social skills needed for academic success. Investing in Head Start is a good investment, as for every \$1 spent we save nearly \$9. These benefits include less welfare dependency, lower crime rates, and a reduction in grade repetition and special education services.

CCDBG programs also offer a life line for many low income families. By offering subsidies for quality child care parents have broader employment opportunities which result in higher incomes, less turnover, and increased productivity. In addition, these funds are improving the quality, as well as the amount of child care available, to low income families.

In Texas, there are nearly 90,000 children enrolled in Head Start. Current proposed funding levels for Head Start in the FY 2009 Presidential Budget will leave this program in peril. If enacted at the President's requested level, 14,000 fewer children will be able to be enrolled in Head Start in 2009. Last year, Congress made many needed improvements to the Head Start program during reauthorization. Many of these improvements will not be enacted without a significant increase in funding.

CCDBG faces similar prospects if there is not an increase in funding. Wait lists for CCDBG programs continue to rise. In Texas, there are currently 15,000 children on a waitlist for child care assistance. If funding continues at current levels 300,000 fewer children nationally will receive child care assistance by 2010. Without this much needed assistance, parents will be forced to make increasingly difficult choices. Many will be forced into debt, will choose lower-quality child care, or end up back on welfare rolls.

Mr. Speaker, we must increase the resources to these programs. Flat funding for CCDBG and near-flat funding for Head Start over the past decade has left hundreds of thousands of children without needed assistance. Current economic conditions have hit

many of our low income families the hardest. Now, more than ever additional assistance is needed. I strongly encourage an increase in funding for these essential programs.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today, in California, 1.7 million children under age six require childcare because of working parents. Of these, nearly 200,000 are served in local programs that receive money from Child Care and Development Block Grants.

Mr. Speaker, you and I know that in the San Francisco Bay Area, most families rely on a minimum of two incomes just to make ends meet. In a time of rising gas and food prices and uncertain economic prospects, many are forced to take on additional jobs just to keep up.

Yet, the President's budget, for the sixth straight year, does not provide enough just to maintain the current level of services. In fact, the budget for Child Care and Development Block Grants falls \$41 million short and hasn't been adjusted for inflation since 2003.

Mr. Speaker, like most states, California can ill afford to pick up the slack, which in 2009 will total over four and half million dollars. Since 2002, our state has been on the hook for \$52.7 million.

Meanwhile, the president has provided just a 2.1 percent increase for Head Start, a program widely acknowledged as one of the most successful in the federal government. This won't even keep pace with inflation and falls woefully short of what is needed to catch up to the more than \$110 million in funding that California has lost relative to Fiscal Year 2002 funding.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the approximately 130,000 California children registered in Head Start and the benefit that early childhood education provides to our nation, I urge the Congress and President Bush to do all we can to adequately provide for this most important resource.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much to the Speaker, and we yield back the balance of our time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 15 on account of personal business.

Ms. RICHARDSON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 15 on account of family business.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 5:30 p.m. on April 15 on account of official business with the Helsinki Commission.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and April 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COURTNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 845. To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

S. 1858. To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinating followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6045. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-8015] received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6046. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7761] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6047. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Proposed Rule Changes of Self-Regulatory Organizations [Release No. 34-57526; File No. S7-06-07] (RIN: 3235-AJ80) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.